

## **ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISH MEETING MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, October 25, 2016**

**Richardson & Robbins Building Auditorium**

**89 Kings Highway, Dover, Delaware**

**Phone 302-739-9912, FAX 302-739-6157**

### **ADVISORY COUNCIL**

1. Edward A. Montague, Chair
2. Garrett Grier, Jr., Vice Chair
3. Raymond F. Burris
4. Neal Dukes (Absent)
5. Robert C. Nichols (Absent)
6. Craig A. Karsnitz
7. Joe C. Johnson
8. Steven M. Kendus
9. Dale R. Scuse

### **DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE**

1. Director David E. Saveikis
2. Chief Drew Aydelotte
3. Cpl. Brian Pollock
4. Craig Rhoads
5. Joe Rogerson
6. Karen Bennett
7. Justyn Foth
8. Emily Boyd
9. Angela Dula
10. Karen Kennedy

### **PUBLIC**

- 1 Visitor

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Montague at 7:00 PM.

#### **Agenda Item 1. Approval of Minutes (Chairman).**

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the August 30, 2016 meeting minutes as written. The August 30 meeting minutes were not approved at last month's Council meeting due to a lack of a quorum. Another motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the September 27, 2016 meeting minutes as written.

#### **Agenda Item 2. Natural Resources Police Youth Academy (Chief Drew Aydelotte).**

Drew Aydelotte, enforcement section chief, gave a PowerPoint presentation of the inaugural Youth Academy held on July 18 – 22 hosted by the Division of Fish and Wildlife's National Resources Police. The camp is free to males and females between the ages of 12 and 15 years old, with priority given to those that have not completed hunter education and have natural resource interests and eagerness to gain experience to perhaps join the Fish and Wildlife Natural Resources Police. Public notification of the camp was given through two Division press releases and the Fish and Wildlife Natural Resources Police Facebook page. Students were exposed to an officer's daily routine and learned skills on safe boating and operation of vessels, angling, hunting safety and natural resource protection. Throughout the academy, instructors emphasized core values such as honor, respect, discipline, positive attitude, teamwork, leadership and commitment. All 20 students completed their Delaware

boating and hunting education classes and received their certificates. The following sponsors made the youth academy possible: Cabela's, Ducks Unlimited, Custom Improvers, Pat's Salon, Chick-fil-a (Middletown), Delaware City Valero, PSC Contracting, Pat's Pizzeria and La Matesina Pizza. Chief Aydelotte stated that future considerations include better marketing and expansion of the program with perhaps a brochure or flyer and to hold a camp in each county. Dates for next year will be available in January.

Chief Aydelotte provided business cards to Council members and the audience.

#### **Agenda Item 3. Prime Hook Waterfowl Blinds (Craig Rhoads).**

Craig Rhoads, wildlife program manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on waterfowl hunting opportunities on the state Prime Hook Wildlife Area. Mr. Rhoads showed the current map of the five waterfowl blinds and three blind sites. The Division plans to evaluate all of the blinds next year since some of them are deteriorating and will have to be replaced. The blinds are issued two and a half hours before sunrise by a lottery held at the Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge checking station.

#### **Agenda Item 4. Trapping on State Wildlife Areas (Craig Rhoads).**

Craig Rhoads, wildlife program manager, gave a PowerPoint presentation on coordinating furbearer trapping opportunities with small game hunting access on

state wildlife areas. Historically, trapping on state wildlife areas was only for muskrats and some raccoons through a bid process in tidal marsh areas and the impoundments. In 2013, regulations were changed allowing the use of foothold traps and cable restraints in upland settings. In 2014 and 2015, a pilot trapping project was done at the Cedar Swamp Wildlife Area where two trapping units were opened for a two week upland trapping period in December. Traps had to be removed on Friday evening before deer season and could be reset on Sunday, with the area closed for small game hunting during this period. The Division did not receive any direct negative public feedback on this trapping pilot project. During the 2015/2016 hunting and trapping season, the Division expanded the pilot project to all areas where small game hunting was controlled by a lottery, again with no negative public feedback. For 2016/2017 hunting and trapping season, the Division is expanding upland trapping to all areas open to trapping through the public bid process during the same two week period in December. Public land trapping bid packages are available online at [www.bids.delaware.gov](http://www.bids.delaware.gov) and will be publicly opened on November 4. Trappers must complete a harvest report to the Division in order to be eligible to bid the following year.

Mr. Rhoads provided maps of the small game hunting showing areas closed during the two week trapping period to Council members and the audience.

#### **Agenda Item 5. Director Update (David E. Saveikis).**

On behalf of Governor Markell and himself, Secretary David Small publicly thanked Advisory Council members for all their work during this administration. Most notably was the journey to get legislation passed for the increase of hunting and trapping license fees and creating a new conservation access pass to wildlife areas.

Director Saveikis announced Drew Aydelotte as the new chief of the Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police. Chief Aydelotte holds a Master's Degree in criminal justice administration and has been with the Division of Fish & Wildlife for over fourteen years. Chief Aydelotte was most recently the captain for Fish & Wildlife Natural Resources Police unit in New Castle County for the past two years.

Director Saveikis introduced new Wildlife Section employees Emily Boyd and Justyn Foth. Emily is the new deer and furbearer biologist and Justyn is the new waterfowl and gamebird biologist.

Director Saveikis provided deer harvest results from the first day of Sunday deer hunting when 116 deer were harvested statewide on the Sunday during muzzleloader season.

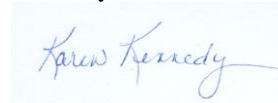
**PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL FUTURE COUNCIL MEETINGS WILL BEGIN AT 7:00 PM**

#### **AGENDA FOR THE 11/29/2016 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

1. Approval of Minutes (Chairman).
2. State Sport Fishing Tournament (Bruce Cole).
3. Augustine Wildlife Area Wildlife Viewing Concept (Anthony Gonzon).
4. Avian Influenza Surveillance of Delaware Waterfowl (Justyn Foth)
5. Director Update (David E. Saveikis).

There being no further business, a motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Sincerely,



Karen Kennedy  
Recording Secretary